

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the February Issue of OUR TOWN

It's a packed issue this month as you can tell from the content list!

The Board of Selectmen start our February newsletter with new sections, 'In Brief' a short overview of many projects they are working on and 'In Depth' going deeper into a particular part of their work. Take a read for an overview of some of the key topics for Dover residents. We also have a information on a new committee 'Tree Preservation' and details of our State Representative, Denise Garlick's 2023 Report to the Community, as well as many other items to keep you informed of what is going in in Dover.

If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the March issue, please contact Ruth Townsend at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com.

VOL. 2, NO.2, FEBRUARY 2023

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

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 **SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER** 

 Sign up here in one easy step

Board of Selectmen



In Brief

Welcome to two new sections from the Board of Selectmen (BOS), an 'In Brief' section giving a short update on their work in the previous month, and an 'In Depth' section that will look at a piece of work in more depth.

BOS Membership Size - Interviews were concluded with potential committee appointees. BOS voted to approve all members at their 1.31.23 Meeting. The Committee is planning to hold its first meeting in early February.

Department of Public Works

Claybrook Road Stabilization - Continue to develop geotechnical engineering design of sheet pile wall, coordination, and incorporation into bid documents ongoing. Permitting submittals to Dover Conservation Commission, Notice of Intent and Dover Zoning, Rivers and Streams Special permit are planned for February.

Centre Street Bridge Funding - Awarded \$2 million federal grant through the FY 23 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. On January 19th, the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization added an earmark for design and permitting to their list of amendments.

Dover Community Center - Contractor Statement of Qualifications were due on February 1st. Once received, the Prequal Committee begins their review and prequalified contractors are determined. They will be notified of their eligibility status and provided with the bidding documents by March 1st. Project is on schedule.

Hale Reservation - The Hale Conservation Restriction continues to be reviewed by the Town, Trustees and Hale to finalize all terms and prepare for public presentations beginning in February.

Town Administrator Search - Two Search Firms submitted bid proposals in January. The BOS selected Community Paradigm to conduct the search at their 1.20.23 Meeting. The search will begin in February.

Town Meeting '23 Preparation - A working group* has begun assessing options for our Annual Town Meeting to be held May 1st. Presently there are over 30 proposed warrant articles, and the group is concerned that they may not be resolved at one meeting. The group is also looking at ways to provide residents with summaries of Warrant Articles earlier in the cycle to increase awareness and provide more opportunity for feedback.

*Jim Repetti, Town Moderator,
Dave Haviland, Assistant Town Moderator,
Felicia Hoffman, Town Clerk
Bob Springett, BOS

Barry Goldman, CBC
Carl Valente, TA
Cam Hudson, Warrant



**You can contact the Board of Selectmen about these matters and others
and also find information on their meetings and how to join by Zoom
by clicking [here](#)**

Board of Selectmen



In Depth

Dover Rail Trail Status

With the completion of the Medfield Rail Trail, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) have received numerous inquiries from Dover residents regarding the status of Dover's rail trail project.

Background

In 2017, Dover Town Meeting approved a citizen's warrant article directing the BOS to negotiate a lease with the MBTA for the portion of rail bed commencing at Hunt Drive and terminating at Springdale Avenue. The approval at Town Meeting of a segment of the rail bed and not the entire rail bed was a result of vehement opposition by abutters. Further, a condition of Town Meeting's approval was that all costs associated with construction as well as future maintenance costs would be the responsibility of Friends of the Dover Greenway and not the Town.

Negotiations

Following the Town Meeting, the BOS began to negotiate, in good faith, with the MBTA for a modified lease of the rail bed. Given the conditions approved at the Town Meeting, the negotiation process was difficult and prolonged. In addition to negotiating the lease, the BOS in conjunction with Friends of the Dover Greenway applied for grants to fund the project. Unfortunately, since the Town only received permission to convert a portion of the trail, our grant request was denied as grants are only available for trails that provide connectivity.

After approximately 2 years of negotiations, the BOS concluded that a successful negotiation with the MBTA for a lease acceptable to both parties, was not possible. The BOS suggested to the Friends of the Dover Greenway that they explore negotiating a lease with the MBTA, with the full support of the BOS. A direct lease between Friends of the Dover Greenway and the MBTA would not be subject to the constraints imposed on the BOS by Town Meeting. Prior to the COVID19 pandemic The Friends of the Dover Greenway were exploring directly leasing the rail bed from the MBTA.

No further actions have been taken to date.

Meet the Team

Walter Avallone is Dover's Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Walter is responsible for overseeing all building, wiring, plumbing and gas permits within the Town. He enforces the provisions of the State Building Code to ensure all work is in compliance with State Laws and Regulations of the Commonwealth and the Dover Zoning Bylaws. Walter serves as enforcement officer for the Zoning Board of Appeals and has experience working in both public and private sectors. He has been with the Town of Dover since 2004 as Assistant Building Inspector and 2011 as Building Commissioner. In his spare time, you will find him drawing/drafting house plans in his home office. In the summer, you can find him relaxing in Maine on the weekends and holidays.



Walter

Ask me about...

- Zoning
- By-Law
- Building Code
- and Permits
- Records

Planning Board

Recommended updates to the existing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Bylaw

The Planning Board will be bringing a recommended update to the existing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning bylaw (185-43) to the 5/1/23 Town Meeting. The recommendations have been developed over the last two years in response to resident feedback in support of 1.) broadening housing options in town while limiting impact on neighborhoods, residential character and town infrastructure; 2.) addressing affordability and flexibility for residents; and 3.) clarifying processes.

We invite interested residents to join the Planning Board at its February 13th meeting for a discussion of the proposed updates. Click [here](#) for meeting details and [here](#) for materials (including an FAQ regarding the proposed ADU Bylaw update). Your feedback is important and we look forward to hearing from you.



Town Taxes



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN PAYING YOUR (PESKY) REAL ESTATE AND MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE BILL

The Town of Dover bills Real Estate Taxes quarterly with each fiscal year's due dates being August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1 (or the following Monday if these dates fall on a weekend). The Town offers several different payment options for Real Estate Tax bills that are not escrowed through the homeowner's mortgage:

Payment Options. These options include:

- Preferred: Online using [UniPay from Unibank](#) A \$.50 fee per card will be applied by Unibank if you use your checking account as an ACH option for payment. Credit card payments are also an option through this site, but will be charged a processing fee. Processing will be completed in 1-2 business days.
- Preferred: Use the enclosed envelope to mail your payment directly to the Town's bank (lockbox). Include the stub portion (i.e. remittance copy) of the mailed tax bill in the payment envelope. Processing will be completed in 1-2 business days upon receipt.
- Available but Not Preferred: Pay by check at the Treasurer's office or using the dropbox at the Town offices. This will result in a processing delay as it must be processed manually by the Town. Be sure to include your remittance copy and account number on your check. Processing may take 10-14 business days upon receipt.
- Available but Not Preferred: Use your bank's online bill pay. This will result in a processing delay as it must be processed manually by the Town. Be sure to include the account number and/or parcel ID with your payment and be sure that you set up Town of Dover R/E Tax as a separate vendor and use the Town Hall physical mailing address. Processing may take 10-14 business days upon receipt.

The Town will also begin issuing 2023 Motor Vehicle Excise bills early in 2023. These bills are created at the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles and are based on your vehicles' registration information. The Town is not involved in determining vehicle valuation or the amount of the bill. The payment methods above are available for Motor Vehicle Excise bills as well. The only difference is that the identifying information to include on checks and online banking payments is the vehicle registration (i.e. plate) number

Any questions about tax payments can be made to the Treasurer's Office at 508-785-0032 x228.



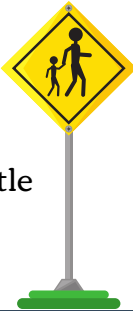
Rules of the Road - a message from Chief McGowan

In Dover, we are so very fortunate to live in a community with beautiful and well maintained streets, scenic roads, and rural, meandering side streets. What we also have is traffic...lots of it. And seemingly more each day. At a recent Council on Aging event, the subject of road safety came up, and we thought it would be a good idea to put out some reminders of the rules of the roads, so that we can all utilize our roadways safely.

- When walking, you should be facing oncoming traffic.
- Wear bright or reflective clothing, and never assume a driver can see you.
- Use the sidewalk if available. If none is available (usually the case) keep as far to the side as you can.
- Be cautious around parked cars or driveways. These situations have limited visibility and the driver may not see you.
- Cross at intersections and/or in crosswalks. Wait for vehicles to stop before entering the roadway.
- Pay attention. Use only one headphone when walking so you can still hear what's going on around you. Limit distractions, such as your phone. Surfing the internet can wait.
- When biking, travel with traffic, in the same direction. You are obligated to follow the same rules of the road just as if you were operating a motor vehicle.
- Wear bright / reflective clothing, and never assume a driver can see you.
- Ride in a straight line, no more than two across.
- Yield to pedestrians. Watch for road hazards. Announce yourself as you approach pedestrians.

We can all coexist and enjoy all the beauty that Dover has to offer. A little common sense, and a little courtesy, will go a long way.

~~ Chief McGowan

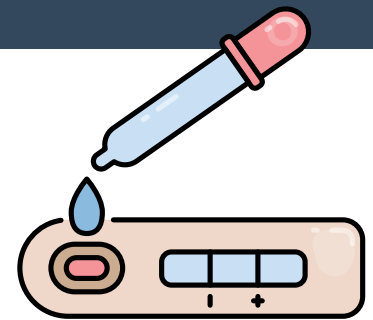


Board of Health

Free Covid Tests

Free COVID-19 rapid test kits are available in the Board of Health office Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM for Dover residents.

Did you know the Town has a COVID-19 page? Click [here](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 news from the Board of Health.



Town Report

There is still time to submit photos for the next Dover Town Report.

The deadline for submission is February 10, 2023. Feel free to email any questions to [Mary Kalamaras](#) or call 301-535-4566. Remember, the Dover Town Report wouldn't be the same without your involvement and great images, so thank you for participating!

For more inspiration from past editions click [here](#)



Copies of town report book from different years

Schools

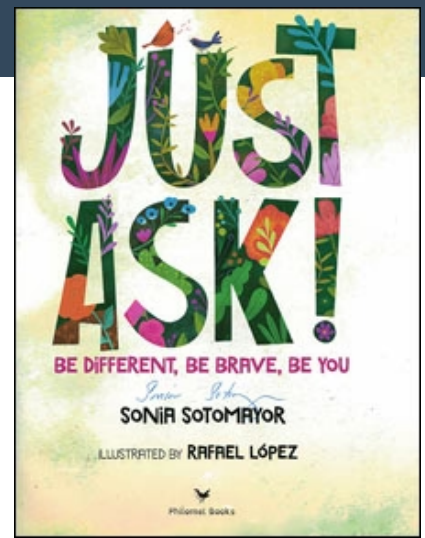
Chickering

Over the last few months all students at Chickering learned about others through our Understanding our Differences program. Understanding Our Differences is a school wide program where students learn about different abilities. All classes read *Just Ask* by Sonia Sotomayor. PK, Kindergarten and First grade focused on food allergies and food awareness. Grade 2 learned about being deaf and some American Sign Language (ASL) from our deaf guest speakers through an interpreter. Grades 3-5 learned about Down Syndrome, with a guest speaker as well.

Starting in January we launched “Chickering Cheer”, a means to recognize students for success, perseverance and being a good citizen. When any adult finds an opportunity to recognize a student, they complete the “Cheer” form and send it to the office with the student. The Principals celebrate the recipient and communicate the good news with home.

Minuteman High School Accepting Applications for 2023-24 School Year

Minuteman High School in Lexington is now accepting applications for students who will be in ninth grade in the fall of 2023. Dover is a member of the Minuteman regional school district. Students with an interest in any of Minuteman’s 19 career technical education programs are strongly encouraged to apply! The priority deadline to apply is February 15.



Cover of Book 'Just Ask'



Along with award-winning academics, Minuteman’s CTE programs include animal science, automotive, biotechnology, carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts, design and visual communications, electrical wiring, engineering, environmental science, health assisting, multimedia, programming and web development, welding, and others.

For information about evening tours and the admissions process, click [here](#).

High School Athletics

Our winter sports teams are doing great and in the middle of the season! Records are as follows:

Boys basketball 9-3
Girls basketball 8-4
Boys ice hockey 3-7
Girls ice hockey 3-6-1
Boys indoor track and field 3-1
Girls indoor track and field 2-2
Boys swim and dive 3-2-1 (placed 4th at TVL Swim Sectional)
Girls swim and dive 4-2 (placed 4th at TVL Swim Sectional)
Gymnastics 4-2
Boys Nordic 7th place in Mass Bay East
Girls Nordic 4th place in Mass Bay East
Boys Alpine 1st place in Mass Bay League
Girls Alpine 2nd place in Mass Bay League



Tree Preservation

New Committee!

The Tree Preservation Committee was created and approved in early December of 2022 as a response to multiple factors: resident concerns about the clear cutting of trees and the impact on Dover's rural feel, state level climate change initiatives, and local factors that could impact large tracts of land within Dover. The committee will submit recommendations to the Planning Board for action related to educating the community and bylaw development. This committee will have up to eight (8) members appointed by the Planning Board for a two-year term. The committee aims to have expert representation from land-management affiliated committees or boards, interested community residents, a high-school student, and industry experts in tree management. In an effort to include the youth perspective the Planning Board approved Angela Lin, a DS high school junior, who has a lengthy history of working on climate-related initiatives at both the local and state level. The first task this committee will take up is to work with The Conway School of Landscape Design to evaluate the current Dover tree-related bylaws, review state and regional municipalities with tree-preservation bylaws, conduct two public forums about tree preservation benefits, develop a community education plan, and recommend bylaw considerations for Dover.



While the collaboration with The Conway School will last from January - April of 2023, the committee itself seeks to accomplish its goals over two years. The Tree Preservation Committee welcomes community input and feedback. Questions and comments can be submitted to [Valerie Lin](#)

Dover History

Naming our Town

In 1900 it was recorded that Dover had 64 farms of 10 acres or more with 147 homes. But in 1782 residents petitioned the General Court to allow their area to separate from Dedham. The petition was denied because of the small number of residents and with it its choice of name: Derby. The Town of Dedham was settled in 1636 and extended to the Rhode Island border. At that time church and state were considered by puritan settlers to be one.

By colonial law a settler could live no further than two miles from the church (AKA the meetinghouse). Early Dover farmers petitioned for their own district. In 1748 the parish of Springfield was established and in 1784 this parish separated from its parent meetinghouse in Dedham to be known as the district of Dover. Dover was incorporated as a separate town in 1836.

Thank you to Betty Brady and the Dover Historical Society for providing us with this piece of history from our own town.



LIFE-SIZED



Come stroll the sweet paths of Candy Land on your quest to reach the Candy Castle!

Kids of all ages are invited to stop by the Community Room to play a life-sized version of the classic board game.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

2:00-5:00PM

Click [here](#) to register

*News
letter*



**Join the Dover Town Library
mailing list by scanning the
QR code or by visiting the
Library's website**

Recycling Committee

New Mattress Disposal Fee

Massachusetts has banned the disposal of mattresses in the trash to keep them out of the trash so they can be recycled or donated for reuse. This has resulted in a significant price increase by all the companies which provide transportation of mattresses to recycling facilities. Dover has negotiated a new contract which will result in a fee of \$45 for each mattress (including memory foam) or box spring delivered to the Transfer Station effective 2/1/2023.

Discarded mattresses can be difficult to manage. They are expensive to transport, hard to compact, take up lots of landfill space, and can damage incinerator processing equipment. Yet mattresses are made up mostly of recyclable materials. Once disassembled, more than 75 percent of their components can be reused. This is better for the environment, the economy, and municipal waste management budgets. All these factors result in higher disposal costs.

In 2020 Dover received a two-year grant from the State DEP which provided for purchase of a container and subsidized the cost for mattress recycling. That grant expired March 31, 2022 after which the Transfer Station implemented its first fee. By the end of the year, the cost of mattress removal increased across all haulers due to increased demand and transport expenses. In 2022 Dover residents disposed of 725 mattresses, equivalent to 20 tons.

The fee can be paid online at the [town website](#) or by check at the Transfer Station. Links to the payment forms are on the town website. Residents paying online will be required to provide the receipt to the attendants at the Transfer Station for access to the mattress trailer. Mattresses are NOT to be left outside the trailer.

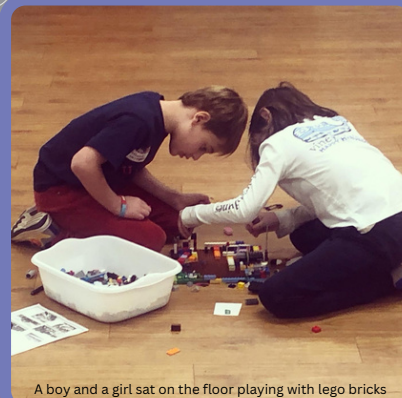


Parks and Recreation

LEGO!

P&R New Lego Adventures program being offered in partnership with Right Brain Curriculum. (RBC)

We will have even MORE, spring sessions with RBC available for registration soon at doverrec.activityreg.com!



A boy and a girl sat on the floor playing with lego bricks



A girl sat on the floor playing with lego bricks

COA

Snow Shovelling

If there are any seniors in town who could use help shoveling snow off their walkways or the pathway to their heating oil fill pipe, please reach out to the [COA](#). The COA can match you with a volunteer. Likewise, if there are any volunteer shovelers who'd like to be matched with a senior, please reach out as well.



Click [here](#) for the COA newsletter

State Representative

2023 Report to the Community

Denise Garlick, Dover's Representative will be reporting back on her work through public policy, budget, constituent and Town services, and most importantly values the opportunity to listen to your issues and concerns.

She invites you to join her in person or virtually:

Dover - Monday, February 6 at 7:00 PM
Dover Town House - 5 Springdale Ave

Zoom: repgarlick.com/report23

Watch Live: Dover Sherborn Cable Television
(Comcast - Channel 22)
(Verizon - Channel 47)

**Advance
registration is
required for
the Zoom.
Click [here](#) to
register.**



Denise Garlick
State Representative

Save the Date



Town of Dover Massachusetts

Save
the
Date(s)!

CAUCUS

Meeting at which candidates for town office are nominated.
Monday, March 6, 2023
Great Hall, Town House 7:30 PM

OPEN HEARING

Warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting are reviewed.
Monday, March 13, 2023
Great Hall, Town House 7:30 PM

ANNUAL TOWN MTG.

Final warrant articles for the town are voted on.
Monday, May 1, 2023
DSRS Mudge Auditorium 7:00 PM

Please visit www.doverma.gov for more information

February Quick Links

Interested in serving on a volunteer board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.

LEARN MORE

Learn about the new Water Restriction Bylaw and Water Restriction Enforcement Bylaw Policy.

LEARN MORE

See the dates for upcoming meetings and agendas for the Board of Selectmen and and Town Committees.

LEARN MORE

Want to contribute to March's newsletter?

**Please submit content to Ruth at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com
by February 18.**

Click below to stay updated on Town news

